

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An exhaust gas purifying filter comprising:
a ceramic honeycomb structure having a surrounding wall, partition walls provided in a honeycomb pattern within the surrounding wall, and a plurality of cells partitioned by the partition walls and, at the same time, penetrating through from one end face of the ceramic honeycomb structure to the other;

wherein if a virtual line is drawn on the both end faces of the ceramic honeycomb structure by continuously connecting points at a distance of ~~1.0 to~~ 3.0 times the pitch of the cells in the direction toward the center from the inner surface of the surrounding wall, not less than 90% of the peripheral area outside the virtual line is blocked with plug material, and

wherein the surrounding wall and the partition walls have a porosity of not less than 50%.

2. (original) An exhaust gas purifying filter, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a partial area or the whole area of the opening of each cell through which the virtual line passes is blocked with the plug material.

Claim 3. (Canceled).

4. (original) An exhaust gas purifying filter, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the surrounding wall has a thickness of 0.2 to 0.8 mm.

5. (original) An exhaust gas purifying filter, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure is made of cordierite.

6. (original) An exhaust gas purifying filter, as set forth in claim 1:
wherein the exhaust gas purifying filter is one for a diesel engine for purifying an exhaust gas discharged from the diesel engine; and
wherein in the central area within the virtual line on the end face of the ceramic honeycomb structure, both openings of the cells provided with plug material and openings of the cells not provided with plug material exist mixedly in such a way that they are arranged alternately.
7. (original) An exhaust gas purifying filter, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the virtual line is a line drawn by continuously connecting points at a distance of 1.0 to 2.0 times the pitch of the cells in the direction toward the center from the inner surface of the surrounding wall.
8. (original) An exhaust gas purifying filter, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the partition wall has a thickness of 0.25 to 0.40 mm.

Claims 9-26 (Canceled).